

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:EKELLY:CHG  
APPROVED BY EA - MR ZURHELLEN  
J-5 ADM HANEFIN  
DOD/ISA - MR ABRAMOWITZ  
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NSC: R.SMYSER

----- 069000

O R 270012Z MAY 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE  
CINCUNC  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
CINCPAC

S E C R E T STATE 122429

EXDIS MIL ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MCAP, UNGA, KS  
SUBJ: RESTRUCTURING OF UNC  
REF (A) SEOUL 3159 (B) CINCUNC 030917Z MAY 75  
JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE  
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. APPRECIATE THOUGHTFUL RESPONSES CONTAINED REFTELS WHICH  
HAVE BEEN LARGELY INCORPORATED INTO OUR PLANNING FOR RE-  
STRUCTURING OF UNC. AS NEXT STEP IN PROCESS YOU ARE  
AUTHORIZED TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH ROKG TO ELICIT REACTION  
TO FOLLOWING SCENARIO FOR IMPLEMENTING OUR UNGA STRATEGY.

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2. USG WILL SEND LETTER TO SECURITY COUNCIL ANNOUNCING THAT:

(A) WITH RESPECT TO UNGA RESOLUTION 3333, THE US IS PRE-  
PARED TO TERMINATE UNC;

(B) USG AND ROKG ARE PREPARED TO DESIGNATE "SUCCESSORS IN COMMAND" WHO WOULD ASSURE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF ALL PROVISIONS OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT NOW THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CINCUNC.

(C) WE ARE PREPARED TO DEACTIVATE THE UNC AND IMPLEMENT THE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENT AS OF 1 JANUARY 1976 SUBJECT ONLY TO THE AGREEMENT OF THE CPV AND KPA, AS THE SIGNATORIES OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT JULY 27, 1953, ON MAINTENANCE

OF ARMISTICE ARRANGEMENTS;

(D) FOR THE FOREGOING PURPOSES THE US AND ROKG STAND READY TO MEET WITH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES AT ANY TIME.

(E) (HERE WE WOULD OUTLINE SPECIFIC MEASURES BEING TAKEN IN MEANTIME TO LOWER UNC PROFILE (SEE PARA 6 BELOW); IF WE DECIDE TO TAKE SUCH STEPS.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WILL NEED TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH ROKG ON GENERAL STRUCTURE AND LINES OF AUTHORITY FOR A NEWLY CREATED COMBINED COMMAND. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THE POSITIONS PUT FORTH BY ROKG LAST YEAR ARE STILL VALID AND IF THEY CAN FORM THE BASIS FOR THESE DISCUSSIONS. WE WOULD HOPE THAT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS COULD BE MADE TO PERMIT SOUNDINGS WITH ALLIES BY END OF MAY AND DISPATCH OF SECURITY COUNCIL LETTER BY MID-JUNE, OR EARLIER IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

4. IN THESE DISCUSSIONS ON NEW COMBINED COMMAND OUR POSITION IS THAT WE WOULD EXPECT TO RETAIN A U.S. FOUR-STAR GENERAL OFFICER AS CINC, COMBINED COMMAND (AND DOUBLE HATTED AS COMUSK) AS LONG AS THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN KOREA. AS SUCH, CINC, COMBINED COMMAND WOULD EXERCISE OPCON OVER THOSE ROK FORCES ASSIGNED TO THE COMMAND. IN THIS REGARD, NO US UNITS WOULD THUS BE PLACED UNDER OPCON OF THE COMBINED COMMAND. HOWEVER, IN THE EVENT OF ARMED ATTACK ON KOREA WITHIN THE  
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MEANING OF ARTICLE III OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY, EUSA AND 314AD COMBAT UNITS WOULD BE DEDICATED TO THE COMBINED COMMAND, SUBJECT TO OUR TREATY PROVISIONS RE "CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES."

5. WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT ROKG WILL AGAIN INSIST ON SOME FORM OF JOINT DEFENSE COMMITTEE TO NEGATE PUBLIC IMPRESSION CREATED BY PLACING THEIR FORCES UNDER AN AMERICAN GENERAL. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER SOME VARIATION OF A BI-LATERAL COMMITTEE FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, BUT IT MUST BE CLEAR THAT THIS BODY CANNOT COME BETWEEN COMMANDERS AND THEIR NATIONAL COMMAND AUTHORITY.

6. ALTHOUGH DECLARATION OF READINESS TO DEACTIVATE UNC SHOULD IMPROVE OUR POSITION IN UNGA WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT INDICATIONS OF SERIOUSNESS OF INTENT MUST BE VISIBLE. WE SHOULD TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE STEPS TO LOWER UNC PUBLIC PROFILE. OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO HIGHLIGHT ARMISTICE ROLE WHILE DOWNPLAYING OTHER ASPECTS OF UNC. IF, FOR INSTANCE, WE HOLD THAT U.S. FORCES ARE NOT UNDER UNC, IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY THEIR USE OF UN FLAG. WOULD

APPRECIATE EMBASSY/CINCUNC RECOMMENDATIONS ON THIS AS WELL AS OTHER PROPOSALS INCLUDING ROKG SUGGESTIONS.

7. YOU MAY INFORM ROKG THAT WE WILL NOT INFORM ALLIES OF OUR PLANNING UNTIL WE HAVE THEIR REACTION AND WOULD LIKE TO KEEP DISCUSSION ON A CLOSE-HOLD BASIS UNTIL THEN. WE PLAN TO APPROACH CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES FOR PRELIMINARY REACTION PRIOR TO TRANSMITTING SC LETTER.

8. IF ROKG AGAIN SUGGESTS UNILATERAL TERMINATION WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE OUR BEST COURSE OF ACTION IS TO PROCEED TO IMPLEMENT OUR PREVIOUSLY AGREED STRATEGY. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ASSESS AGAIN OUR UN PROSPECTS AT SOME POINT CLOSER TO THE UNGA WHEN WE HAVE A BETTER FEEL FOR THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT WE CAN MUSTER.

9. RE JANUARY 1 DATE FOR TERMINATION WHICH IS DERIVED FROM REF (B), THERE WOULD BE COGENT REASONS FROM UNGA  
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DEBATE POINT OF VIEW TO ESTABLISH IT AS NOVEMBER 1, THEREBY BRINGING IT BEFORE DEBATE ON KOREAN ITEM ON UNGA. IF EMBASSY/CINCUNC BELIEVE IMPLEMENTATION WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN THAT TIMEFRAME (IN ADMITTEDLY UNLIKELY EVENT CPV/KPA ACCEPTED PROPOSAL) DATE MIGHT BE SET AT NOVEMBER 1. PLEASE ADVISE.

10. YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING REASONING IN DISCUSSING THIS WITH ROK: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, IN INDOCHINA AND ELSEWHERE (INCLUDING KIM IL SUNG'S VISIT TO PEKING), HAVE MADE US MORE RELUCTANT THAN EARLIER TO CONSIDER MAJOR SHIFTS IN ARRANGEMENTS ON KOREAN PENINSULA WITHOUT ANY SATISFACTORY ASSURANCE THAT OTHER SIDE WILL ACCEPT THESE SHIFTS AND ACT WITH RESTRAINT. WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PROPOSAL WE MADE PRIVATELY TO THE OTHER SIDE LAST YEAR (SUCH AS SURFACING THE PROPOSAL, AND ADDING A DATE CERTAIN) IN ORDER TO INCREASE OUR CHANCES OF FAVORABLE ACTION AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. BUT WE SHOULD NOT TAKE MAJOR STEPS (SUCH AS TERMINATING UNC UNILATERALLY) THAT MIGHT CREATE AN IMPRESSION IN PYONGYANG THAT WE ARE IN A STATE OF PANIC OR UNDER INTOLERABLE PRESSURE. OF COURSE, WHILE

WE WANT TO BEGIN CONSULTATIONS WITH ROK ON NEW US-ROK  
COMBINED COMMAND IN ORDER TO BE READY FOR ANY  
EVANTUALITY, IT IS NOT OUR INTENT TO PUT THIS INTO  
EFFECT UNTIL OTHER SIDE AGREES TO EFFECTIVE CONTINUATION  
OF ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, REORGANIZATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** johnsorg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE122429  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** EA/K:EKELLY:CHG  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D750184-0395  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t197505103/baaaakus.tel  
**Line Count:** 170  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** johnsorg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01 MAY 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MARR, MCAP, KS, UNGA, UNC  
**To:** SEOUL  
CINCUNC INFO USUN N Y  
TOKYO  
CINCPAC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

